



## Tennessee Even Start

For the fiscal year 2002-2003, there are 26 Tennessee Even Start projects, located in 24 counties across the state.

These programs currently serve over 850 families, with over 900 participating adults and over 1,100 participating children.

Just as planning for Even Start families is for the long term, so is planning for each Even Start project, or site. The objective is to become locally self-sustaining within four to eight years.

Project grants are awarded on a competitive basis. See <http://www.state.tn.us/education/sp/spevenstartfrp02.htm> for more information and Requests for Proposals for fiscal 2003-2004, due at the Department of Education on May 16, 2003.

Even Start projects are funded by an annually diminishing Federal Grant/Local Match ratio. In fiscal 2002-2003,

- Federal Grants to Tennessee projects ranged from \$75,000 to \$200,000;
- Local Cash and In-Kind Match commitments ranged from \$18,703 to \$332,872;
- total project budgets ranged from \$96,803 to \$427,871.

For fiscal 2002-2003, the total Federal allocation to Tennessee for Even Start projects was \$3,038,043. Over 94% of this amount goes directly to local projects, with less than 6% spent on technical assistance and grant administration.

# Tennessee Department of Education Family Literacy Program Summary



## Even Start Family Literacy Programs

*Established under the United States Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Reauthorized 2000 and 2001 as No Child Left Behind), Title I, Part B, Subpart 3*

The purpose of Even Start is to help **break the intergenerational cycle of poverty** and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of our nation's low-income families. Even Start programs **target families most in need** because of poverty, illiteracy or limited education, low English proficiency, disability, teen pregnancy, and/or homelessness. An eligible family has:

- at least one child who is under the age of 8, and
- an adult who provides the child's primary care and who does not have a high school diploma or is not proficient in English.

In addition to the Elementary and Secondary Education/No Child Left Behind Act, the Even Start definition of family literacy services is set forth in the Workforce Investment Act, the Head Start Reauthorization, the Reading Excellence Act, and the Family Literacy Federal Work-Study Waiver. This federal definition states:

[Family Literacy] Services [must be] provided on a **voluntary** basis [and be] of **sufficient intensity** in terms of hours and of **sufficient duration to make sustainable changes** in a family and [must] integrate the following activities:

1. **interactive literacy** activities between parents and children (known as Parent and Child Together, or PACT, time);
2. **training for parents** regarding how to be the **primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children** (Parent Support);
3. **parent literacy training** that leads to **economic self-sufficiency** (Adult Education); and
4. an **age-appropriate education** to prepare **children for success in school and life experiences** (Early Childhood Education).

For details about the attributes of a fully implemented Tennessee Even Start program, see <http://www.state.tn.us/education/sp/sp00esappendixii.pdf>. To learn more about Even Start and other Family Literacy programs in Tennessee, visit <http://cls.coe.utk.edu/tnfamily/>.



## ORDIS

The One-Room Drop-In Schools improve students' abilities to compete and succeed, with

- SAT and ACT preparation;
- job skills training and counseling;
- lending libraries;
- long-term suspension supervision;
- community education;
- tax preparation help;
- emergency referrals to social services;
- community liaison to schools, civic, and social services organizations;
- neighborhood "drop-in" assistance.

# Tennessee Department of Education Family Literacy Program Summary

## ORDIS

### *One-Room Drop-In Schools*

The State of Tennessee funds six **One-Room Drop-In Schools**: two each in Nashville and Memphis, and one each in Chattanooga and Kingsport. They are **family-oriented learning centers** located in public housing projects. Each provides a licensed teacher, computer technology, and other academic and community resources for 11 months a year. All of the ORDIS programs include:

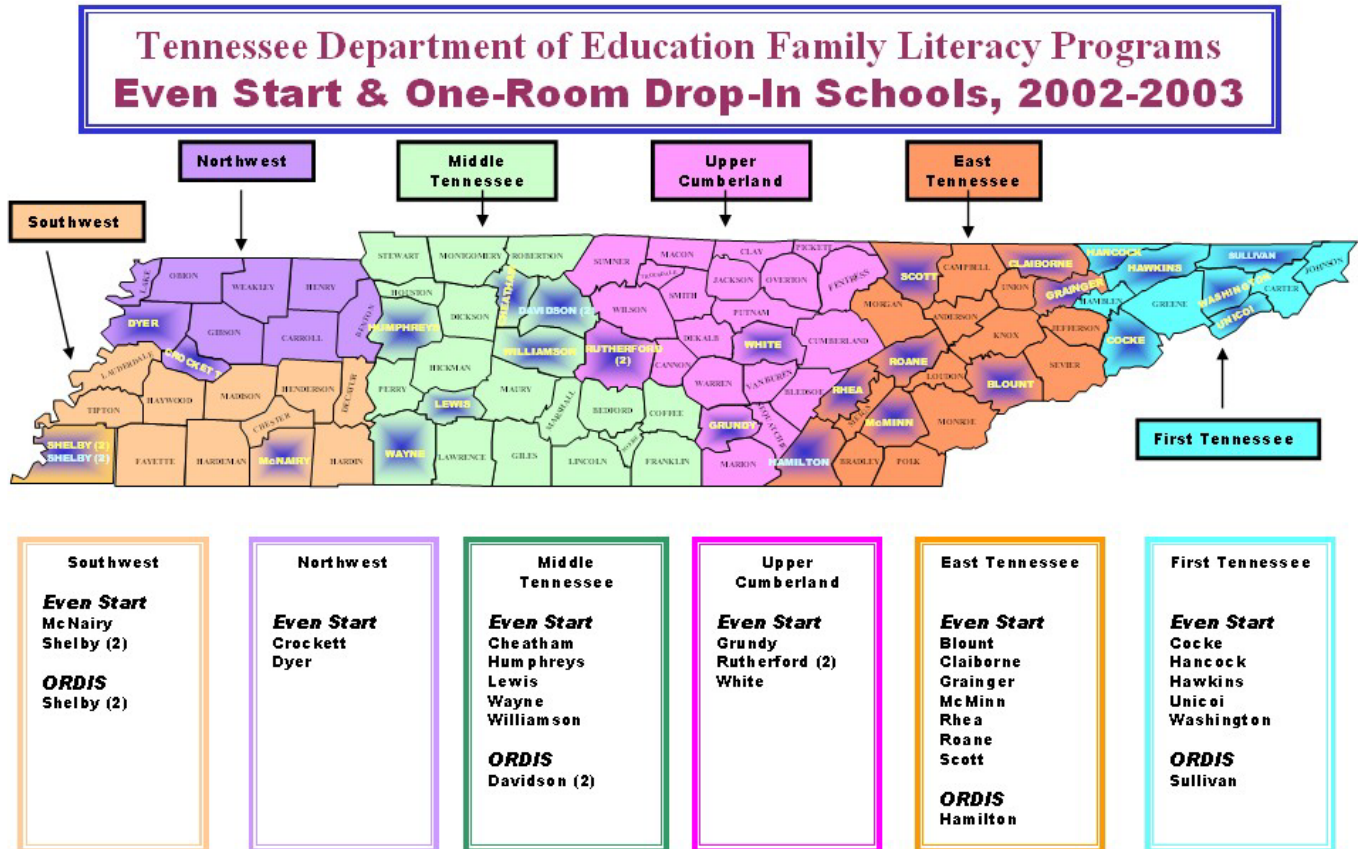
- **after-school and summer homework help and enrichment** for children in kindergarten through grade 12;
- **Adult Literacy/Basic Education and GED preparation** for adults and school drop-outs; and
- **drug and alcohol abuse prevention/education.**

Each ORDIS program is unique, created in response to specific needs of the community and individuals it serves.

The ORDIS program serves between 2,000 and 3,000 individuals each year, from birth to age 60+.

Each ORDIS site has been receiving \$52,500 annually.

# Tennessee Department of Education Even Start & ORDIS Locator Map





## NashvilleREAD

NashvilleREAD and the Tennessee Department of Education work together to provide:

- training for parents in parent advocacy and student achievement;
- technical support and resources to Parents as Teachers certified programs; and
- technical support and training for school professionals regarding school compacts and tools to raise academic goals for children 0-preK and K-12.

To learn more about NashvilleREAD, visit their Website at <http://www.nashvilleread.org/>

## Tennessee Department of Education Family Literacy Program Summary

### Parent Education Specialist Coordinator

#### *A Collaboration with NashvilleREAD*

NashvilleREAD is a non-profit community-based literacy support agency. Under the Federal Parental Assistance Program of the *Goals 2000 Educate America Act*, NashvilleREAD was awarded funding to continue and expand its successful Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) throughout Tennessee via the U.S. Department of Education.

As part of this continuation grant, NashvilleREAD has placed a **Parent Education Specialist Coordinator** in the Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Family Literacy Programs. The person in this position facilitates the activities of four regional Parent Education Specialists of NashvilleREAD's Family Literacy Division. Their objective is to support parent education, parent involvement, and family literacy, helping programs and schools develop strategies to improve services and replicate successful models.

The grant also supports the Tennessee Parents First Center, located in a Title I elementary school in the Metro Nashville/Davidson County system. The Center serves as a control center for the state. Much of the Center's work is a community collaboration with partners that include the Tennessee Department of Education, Head Start, Title I, Family Resource Centers, and the United Way. For more information or to find a local office, visit [www.parentsfirst.org](http://www.parentsfirst.org), or call 615-460-9980 or toll free 877-TNREADS.



## The Tennessee Family Literacy Consortium

- AEL Tennessee
- Assisi Foundation
- East Tennessee State University
- Education Equal Opportunity Group
- Friends of Literacy, Inc.
- Head Start State Collaboration Office
- It's Time to Read
- Knox County Schools
- Martha O'Bryan Center
- Middle Tennessee Reading Association
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Nashville Adult Literacy Program Council
- Nashville Area Assn. for the Education of Young Children
- NashvilleREAD
- National Center for Family Literacy
- Tennessee Association of Adult & Community Educators
- Tennessee State Board of Education
- Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
- Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- Tennessee Education Association
- Tennessee Governor's Office
- Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- Tennessee Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Tennessee Reading Association
- Tennessee State Departments of Children's Services; Education; Economic & Community Development; Health; Human Services; Labor & Workforce Development
- Tennessee State Library and Archives
- Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Technological University
- Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc.
- The Reading Bridge
- Trevecca Nazarene University
- United Way of Nashville's Read to Succeed Program
- University of Tennessee Center for Literacy Studies
- Vanderbilt University
- Woodbine Community Organization

## Tennessee Department of Education Family Literacy Program Summary

### *Tennessee Even Start Statewide Family Literacy Initiative*

#### *A Statewide Consortium of Family Literacy Providers and Supporters*

In January 2000 Tennessee was awarded a federal grant to **promote the contributions of Family Literacy** to the educational, social, and physical development of children, the stability of families and communities, and the development of a competent workforce.

Backed by the grant, experts from a wide array of programs and services in Tennessee formed the **Statewide Family Literacy Consortium**. Agencies represented in the Consortium include several departments of our state government plus institutions of higher education, Head Start, county and city education agencies, non-profit community-based organizations, philanthropic organizations, and individuals interested in family-friendly programs.

Primary sponsors of the Consortium are the Tennessee Department of Education and the Center for Literacy Studies at the University of Tennessee. **The Consortium's mission** is to develop, maintain, and grow a network of support for programs that serve families and to improve literacy in the homes, schools, and communities of our state. The Consortium is now in the process of developing a strategy to continue its work beyond the 2003 expiration of the Federal grant.

For complete information, visit the Consortium's Website at <http://cls.coe.utk.edu/tnfamilit/index.htm> .